# West SPA's Implementation of Proposition 36

By Holly McCravey, Didi Hirsch Mental Health Center

Last year, California voters passed Proposition 36, also known as the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000. Proposition 36 amended existing drug sentencing laws to require defendants convicted of a non-violent drug offense to be placed in drug treatment as a condition of probation instead of incarceration. Prop. 36 has three goals:

- divert individuals from incarceration into community based substance abuse treatment programs;
- \* halt the expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars each year on the incarceration and re-incarceration of non-violent drug users who could be better served by community based treatment, and
- enhance public safety by reducing drug-related crime and improving public health by reducing drug abuse and drug dependence through substance abuse treatment.

Prop. 36 took effect July 1, 2001. Some of its key provisions statewide are: requiring probation and substance abuse treatment for persons convicted of possession, transporting for personal use, or being under the influence of a controlled substance and related parole violations. It is limited to non-violent drug possession offenses, and

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does not include sales of narcotics or anyone with a prior violent felony conviction. The treatment provision is up to one year of community based substance abuse treatment, including outpatient, residential, and detoxification, and as much as six months of aftercare. It allows for dismissal of charges after successful completion of substance abuse treatment. It provides statewide total of \$60 million in fiscal year 2000-01 for planning and start-up costs, and \$120 million annually from fiscal year 2001-02 to fiscal year 2005-06.

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## Westside Homeless Services

By Barbara Morck, Ocean Park Community Center

The Ocean Park Community Center operates a network of shelters and services for homeless adult men and women, homeless and low-income families, battered women and their children, and chronically mentally ill homeless women. The OPCC Access Center and Homeless Outreach Team provides food, clothing, crisis intervention, and referrals to over 4,000 homeless or low-income individuals and families each year.

Turning Point Transitional Housing shelters 55 homeless men and women for up to nine months and offers case management and specialized programming such as job counseling and money management. In addition to its shelter for battered women, Sojourn Services for

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Battered Women and Their Children operates a 24-hour hotline, provides court advocacy, a legal clinic, and sponsors weekly peer support groups for women and children affected by domestic violence in an attempt to stop the cycle of domestic violence. Through its Campion Counseling program, OPCC provides group and individual counseling to the clients of each of its projects who are being case-managed. Daybreak Day Center and Shelter provides a continuum of care, emergency services through shelter and aftercare, to approximately 600 homeless, mentally ill women annually. In 1999, OPCC started Night Light, an outreach and educational project designed to assist the growing numbers of runaway and homeless youth congregating on the streets of the Westside.

#### Prop 36: Continued from page 1

In order for Los Angeles County to successfully implement Prop. 36, the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC) voted to establish a Prop. 36 Implementation Task Force to coordinate a collaborative strategy among the Court, Probation, Health Services Alcohol & Drug Program Administration (ADPA) and community-based treatment providers in the county. Their mission is to provide coordinated strategies to ensure that the criminal justice and treatment provider agencies in the county work together to effectively implement the provisions of the Act.

The County Board of Supervisors designated ADPA as the lead agency for administering the program. ADPA contracts with approximately 250 community-based substance treatment programs in Los Angeles County. These programs will serve as the foundation for providing treatment services for Prop. 36 program participants. Some of the local treatment providers currently participating in Prop. 36 in the West SPA are Clare Foundation, Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center Venice Program and Jewish Family Services Alcohol and Drug Program.

Initially, eleven Community Assessment and Service Centers (CASC) were contracted to provide clinical substance abuse assessments to participants using the Addiction Severity Index (ASI), a nationally recognized substance abuse assessment instrument. The assessment results help determine recommendations for level of treatment and placement in the community. The CASC then coordinates recommendations for treatment with the courts for West SPA, which include Los Angeles Airport, Santa Monica as well as the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

- ❖ A sophisticated information system is being developed to track statistical information such as:
- the number of offenders in the system,
- the number of offenders who do not show up at the CASC for assessment,
- the number of participants who have successfully completed the program, and
- the number of offenders who have dropped out.

Since July 1, the CASC in West SPA has been referred 99 defendants and provided 64 assessments and referrals (through mid-December) to the community based substance abuse providers in the county. The funding under Prop. 36 lasts until fiscal year 2005-06. After 2006, the state or the voters must appropriate additional funding for treatment or the mandates for treatment will continue without funding. Los Angeles County must show how effectively Prop. 36 is being implemented and collect data to provide for treatment outcomes and changes that are felt in the criminal justice system.

The Prop 36 implementation plan is a work in progress. Its success depends upon a collaboration of the criminal justice agencies and the treatment community. The plan must evolve to meet the needs of the participants, the criminal justice system, substance abuse treatment providers, public health and the community.

For further information on Prop. 36, you can contact Didi Hirsch C.M.H.C. Community Assessment and Service Center at 310-895-2339.

#### Shigella Outbreak in a Westside Restaurant

By Jennifer Kilburn, R.N., BSN

In September, a small fast-food Mexican restaurant located in West Los Angeles was under investigation by the Department of Health Services as the source of a Shigella outbreak. Shigella is a bacterium that affects the gastrointestinal system, often causing diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and fever. The onset of symptoms usually takes 1-3 days but in some cases it may take up to 7 days after the ingestion of bacteria for the symptoms to appear. Shigella can be found in the stool of infected people and bacterial transmission occurs if contaminated food or water is ingested.

Twenty-one persons who ate at the restaurant from September 10th through the 20th were interviewed; 17of these patrons had symptoms consistent with Shigella. All 17 of these patrons reported diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and chills. Twelve of these 17 patrons submitted stool samples that tested positive for the bacteria; the other five were presumptive cases.

On September 25th all employees of the restaurant were interviewed and denied symptoms of Shigella. Inspection of the premises revealed hand washing violations, improper sanitization, and unclean surfaces and equipments. Stool specimens submitted by the restaurant employees were all negative.

The items consumed by all 21 persons included tacos, burritos, beans, chips, rice and condiments, such as salsa, onions, and cilantro. The individuals who became ill reported eating raw onions and cilantro, which were highly suspected as the source of infection. Further investigation found numerous violations at the local warehouse that supplied the restaurant with the cilantro and onions. Consequently, the health department closed down this warehouse.

To help prevent the spread of Shigella, it is essential to practice thorough hand washing before preparing meals and after using the restroom. All raw fruits and vegetables must be carefully washed before being consumed. All hot food should be kept at 140 degrees or higher and all cold food should be kept at 41 degrees or lower in all commercial food establishments.

### **2001 Flu Season**

By Farimah Fiali

West SPA Public Health Nursing thanks all those who helped administer flu shots this season. There were 4,790 shots given by Public Health in the West SPA at eight sites; last year 4,904 were delivered. This represents 2.3% decrease in shots from last year, likely due to the cancellation of one of the clinic sites.

## Environmental Health Homeless Food Delivery Program

By Terry Powell, Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Program has been engaged in several outreach and collaboration efforts throughout the county. In West SPA, the department has partnered with the Santa Monica Police Department and the City Attorney's Office in an effort to ensure the safe handling of food distributed to the homeless population. This revisits a previously unresolved issue of volunteers preparing and distributing meals to the homeless population in an unsafe manner.

While the idea of providing meals stems from good intentions, the provision of food handled in an unsafe manner presents an opportunity for foodborne illnesses to a population that is often deficient in good health and/or devoid of access to medical services.

Our goal is to instruct volunteer organizations regarding food safety and to coordinate with the city agencies involved in granting permission to use public space for the activities. Issues concerning available restrooms for the participants as well as hand washing facilities for food handlers, and appropriate trash removal are considerations. The program is currently in the development stages having recently held our first in a series of meetings in September.

# Intentional/Unintentional Injury and Older Adult Fact Sheets Completed

By Phillip Moore

The Epidemiology Unit has completed fact sheets for the West SPA community on intentional/unintentional injuries: one each for the general population and seniors. These are the first in a series of fact sheets that will be made available via hardcopy and on our web site. These sheets highlight specific data for the west health district only. Community members, health agencies, and school districts can benefit by using these sheets to enhance patient education, programmatic planning, grant applications and providing data for needs assessments. Other forthcoming fact sheet topics will include Childhood Asthma, Homelessness, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Diabetes, Mental Health and Alcohol/Substance Abuse. You can find the first of these fact sheets at: www.lapublichealth.org/spa5.

#### Santa Monica City Council Approves Water Fluoridation

By Marsha Epstein, M.D.

The teeth won! The Santa Monica City Council voted 4-3 in favor of fluoridating the water in Santa Monica on October 23. On hand to speak in favor of fluoridation were Tim Collins, DDS, MPH, Chief of Public Health Dentistry, and Marsha Epstein, MD, MPH, Area Medical Director for West SPA. The water in Santa Monica is already partially fluoridated naturally, but this action will bring the level up to about 0.8 parts per million, which is the best level to protect teeth.

Everyone, especially children, older adults with receding gums and those who are homeless benefit from fully fluoridated water. Pain from abscessed teeth and nutritional problems caused when decayed teeth are pulled instead of filled, promote school absenteeism and possible learning problems.

There are no known side effects of fluoridated water. Numerous studies show fluoride to be safe for all age groups. The city will receive a grant from the California Endowment to pay for all the start-up costs for the system.

#### 2001-02' COLD/WET WEATHER SHELTER PROGRAM INFORMATION

Call INFO-LINE at 1 (800) 339-6993 for all locations and activation information. FULL ACTIVATION - December 1, 2001 through March 15, 2002

(There will be **no** "Weather Activation" phase on Westside this year.)

#### SHELTER SITES:

**West L.A. Armory** (310) 481-3901 Shelter Hours: 6pm - 7am 1300 Federal Avenue, L.A., CA 90073 **Culver City Armory** (310) 845-9588 Shelter Hours: 6pm - 7am 10803 Culver Blvd., Culver City, CA 90230-3738

#### PICK UP SITES AND TIME FOR WEST L.A. AREA:

**Westminster & Pacific** @ Bus Stop/Venice (Northwest Corner of street(s))

Step Up on Second !!For Members Only!! @ corner of 2nd & Arizona (vacant parking lot)

Access Center/OPCC @ 1616 7th Street (cross street is Colorado)

**5:15pm** - both armories

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5:40pm - Culver City

**6:15pm** - West L.A.

6:40pm

#### West Service Planning Area Selected Reportable Diseases (Cases)

Disease	Jul-Sept 01	Jul-Sept 00
AIDS	11	14
Amebiasis	8	3
Campylobacteriosis	28	35
Chlamydial Infections	244	245
Encephalitis	1	2
Gonorrhea	84	90
Hepatitis Type A	19	16
Hepatitis Type B	0	3
Hepatitis Type C	0	1
Measles	0	0
Meningitis	1	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	1
Non-gonococcal Urethritis	33	49
Pertussis	3	0
Salmonellosis	24	28
Shigellosis	24	15
Syphilis, primary & secondary	, 2	0
Syphilis, early latent (<1 yr.)	0	1
Tuberculosis	11	7

Data provided by DHS' Public Health programs: Acute Communicable Diseases, Data Collection & Analysis, HIV/Epidemiology, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and Tuberculosis Control.

#### West SPA Health Team

Area Medical Director:

Administrator:

Nurse Manager:

Health Educator:

Phillip L. Moore III, MPA

Audrey Goto, RN, PHN

Ammini Williams, MA, MPH

Epidemiology Analyst:

Public Health Investigator:

Carolyn Weinrieb

Ali Farjadi

Public Health Nurses:

Maggie Cueva, RN, PHN, NP
Beryl Inouye, RN, PHN
Liz Kane, RN, PHN
Jennifer Kilburn, RN, PHN
Alice Brummett, RN, PHN, NP

Alice Brummett, RN, PHN, N Mary Singaus, RN, PHN Deanna Ssutu, RN, PHN

Clinic Nurse: Linda Flores, RN
Executive Secretary: Ella Okonkwo
Clerical Support: Rita Miller
Community Workers: Sonia Fuentes
Registrar: Yvette Veal

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www.lapublichealth.org/spa5/

